

Masses For The Week**Monday - January 13**

6:30 Teresa LuParello
9:00 Richard Godek

Tuesday - January 14

6:30
9:00 Joseph Doherty

Wednesday - January 15

6:30
9:00 Joseph Fontana

Thursday - January 16

6:30
9:00 Rochford's Anniversary

Friday - January 17

6:30 Vincent Mangiamele
9:00 John Kelly, Neil & Mary Kelly

Saturday - January 18

9:00 **Multiple Intentions Announced at Mass**
5:00 Anna Cunningham & Margaret McArdle
7:00 Karen Ann Adkins

Sunday - January 19

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Florence Campbell
10:00 Anne L. Merin, Living
11:30 Michael DeZervos
1:00 Lucille Borrello
5:30 Margaret Duemmel

Readings For The Week

Mon. 1 John 3:22-4:6; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
Tues. 1 John 4:7-10; Mark 6:34-44
Wed. 1 John 4:11-18; Mark 6:45-52
Thurs. 1 John 4:19-5:4; Luke 4:14-22a
Fri. 1 John 5:5-13; Luke 5:12-16
Sat. 1 John 5:14-21; John 3:22-30

Sun. Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 "Here is my servant whom I uphold. I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice," said Isaiah. "To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners," and to make you a light for the nations.

Acts 10:34-38 God does not play favorites. All who fear the Lord are justified. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and the power to do good works and heal all in need.

Matthew 3:13-17 The Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove, and a voice from the heavens said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

***Divine Mercy Novena***

**Every Friday at 2:00 p.m.
in the Eucharistic Chapel
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift***Amounts Received***

Christmas \$49,265.00
December 28/29: \$16,254.70
January 4/5 \$19,208.00

*Our heartfelt thanks to all our parishioners and visitors
for your generosity!*

Reflection & Living Stewardship

Our Baptism, like the Lord's, is a consecration to service. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship reminds us that "...there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of Baptism that people place their gifts, their resources - their selves - at God's service in and through the Church.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who develop their talents to the fullest in order to use them to benefit church and community through such programs as our own Parish Social Ministry.

Charismatic Prayer Group***LOVE***

I once gave my sister a card that said, "How do you wrap love?" And inside it simply said, "In swaddling clothes!" How true!

Our next meeting is Monday, January 13th at 7:30PM in the Church. All ages 18 and over are welcome. Call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

FYI...The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. We will open on Tuesday at 9AM.

St. Martin of Tours HOP Club

Jan. 6	#581	Carole Boyse	\$25.00
Jan. 7	#189	Tom Heltz	\$25.00
Jan. 8	#411	M/M Michael Damato	\$25.00
Jan. 9	#270	Anthony Ventura	\$25.00
Jan. 10	#303	M/M Dominick Spampinato	\$50.00

St. Martin of Tours Wedding Banns

2nd Andrew Tine & Lauren Maniace



“Whatever you do for one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it for me.”

This week, the Pantry is low on black beans, Progresso meat soups, peaches, pears, pancake mix & syrup, juice & juice boxes, oatmeal, pasta sauce, crushed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, canned salmon, chili, yams, cookies, brownie mix, boxed milk, evaporated milk, mayonnaise, ketchup, tissues & conditioner. During the month of December, we were able to serve 598 people thanks to your generosity.

Giving Tree

Heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all who generously supported The Giving Tree. We were able to help 90+ families with special gifts for Christmas.

Bethpage Community Fund

We are also most grateful to the Bethpage Community Foundation for supplying checks to 28 of our families.

Food Pantry:

208 Broadway, Bethpage

Monday: 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Thursday: 2:00PM – 7:00PM

Phone: (516) 931-7332

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Carmela and I were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and prayers that we received from so many of our parish family. Your prayers lifted me from darkness to light. Even the medical staff was stunned by my recovery as I left the hospital.

It is with humbleness and a contrite heart that we thank our God and through the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, CSSR for answering our prayers. Carmela and our family are so grateful for your love and support. Thanks be to God!

Deacon Jim, Carmela and family

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Reminder: please call the rectory at 931-0818 to remove a name off the list. Thank you.

Helena Carroll, Pat Pedone, Vincent Valenti
 Ledwin Mason, Leevalli Annearosa, Fran Pignataro,
 Skylar Vega, Leigh Murphy, Helena Mulligan
 Richard Piernini, John Tortorice, Joseph Simon
 Douglas Torres, Gina Cava, James Robertson, Amy Hayes
 Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina, Sharon Shiepk
 Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell, Salvatore Accardi
 Peggy Namiotka, Pat Cannata, Barbara Thompson
 Donald Castor, Dorothy Quinn, Edith Lagan
 Henry Niemczyk, Bud Pehrsson, Zachery Duff
 Sam Zubov, Christine Chiarappa, Herman Lordahl
 Patricia Marrone, Godeliva Pagan, Mary Henson
 Mary Lynn Brassil, Catherine Battiat, Brendan Rodriguez
 Charles Drew, Rebecca Passaro, Joanne Maguire
 Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino
 Nicole Cagna, Linda Cicoello, Sal Mascolo, Patrick Crowe
 Gary Vlahov, Bridget Mullarkey, Irene Janampa
 Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Father Henry Sattler, CSSR
 Christopher Wezel, Eileen Catalano, Teresa Tavarelli

Thought for the Week

*We think too much and feel too little.
 More than machinery, we need humanity.
 More than cleverness,
 we need kindness and gentleness.*

-Charlie Chaplin



*Week of Jan. 12-18, 2014
 Altar Bread & Wine*

*In Loving Memory of
 Helen Fanning*

Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

**Jeanette Quinn, Brian Enright
 Elinor Mangano, Kathleen M. Doherty
 Vincent Pastore, Bernard Houston
 Antonio Villani, Eileen Ammerata**

Letter from the Pastor

I was home with my family on New Year's Day enjoying a delicious dinner. I like to engage my great nieces and nephews in conversation by asking them questions. Occasionally if I ask the right question and am persistent, they will put down their electronic gadgets and respond. So I asked Fiona, a third grader, *What was the best part of Christmas for you?* She thought for a moment and said, *Opening my presents.* So I turned to Sean, a rambunctious first grader and asked him the same question: he quickly said, *Not having to go to school.* Now I might have preferred an answer such as going to Mass on Christmas Eve or having your Uncle Pat come to visit us for a few days, but I liked the honesty and innocence of their responses.

As I was preparing this homily, I decided to ask myself the same question: *What was the best moment of Christmas for me?* I thought of the great array of baked goodies, donuts, candies, and fruit baskets that came into the rectory over the past two weeks, many of them draped in chocolate. Or the several bottles of Irish "holy water" that were given to me often called *Jamison*. It made me know that people were truly listening to my sermons. As one person put it when I thanked them for the gift, *"Well, you dropped enough hints in your preaching about Jamison!"* So many parishioners sent the priests lovely Christmas cards, many with Masses being offered for us, as well as very kind words for our ministry among you. As we celebrated the masses during the Christmas season, we were constantly wished Merry Christmas and blessings in the New Year. The parishioners of St. Martin's certainly make their priests and deacons feel very loved, especially at Christmas.

There are so many moments I consider as I ponder what the number one highlight of the season was. Certainly Christmas dinner with my family was a highlight as were visits with close friends. I loved the spiritual preparation that our parish made for Christmas. I enjoyed the Gospel sharing that took place every Saturday morning as we spoke about the upcoming Sunday Gospels. I enjoyed the daily morning prayer that was said with a group of parishioners at 8:30 a.m. before the 9:00 a.m. Mass. I referred to this group as the *Monks of St. Martin's*. During the Wednesday evenings of Advent, we had parish prayer services that touched me very deeply as I listened to the Spirit of God speak through those who attended.

On December 23rd, a great crew of parishioners came into church under the creative direction of Ann Hughes and filled our space with glorious colors and decorations that gave praise to the newborn King. I assiduously avoided this work group since I am afraid I might be asked to start moving plants. Throughout the days of Advent, I could, as I would go over to church, hear Elena Scollo and her talented musicians and choir members preparing to praise God in song. Sitting in the Church at 11:30 p.m. before the Midnight Mass and listening to the choir was a most peaceful and prayerful moment for me in the midst of a very busy day.

I love Christmas at St. Martin's and sharing such a time of faith with all of you...but back to my highlights. I would have to say there were two at the top of my list, and they have been the same for all three years that I have been your pastor. I love walking into the church at 3:30 in the afternoon on Christmas Eve. Every seat is taken in anticipation of the 4:00 Mass. As the crowd keeps growing our sacristan, Dominic, makes several announcements that Mass is also available at the Knights of Columbus Hall and in the school auditorium. It is hard to describe, but there is a feeling of electricity in the church. The joy and delight of the congregation is almost touchable. Little children are wearing their Christmas finest, and the men are wearing Christmas ties of bright colors. I love this moment, with the church full and everyone eager to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This year I added another exciting touch to the 4:00 Mass. I managed to set off the fire alarm by using too much incense. The piercing sounds led babies to cry and me to panic until Sue, our lead sacristan, found the off switch. Equally moving to me is the children's Christmas pageant that we have at the 6:00 p.m. Mass. Cookie, her daughter and Martha do a fabulous job in organizing the children and dressing them in their costumes. I am the director of this pageant. We have one practice in anticipation of the production that would rival Radio City. The practice moves me to prayer since we seem to have too many shepherds, no kings, and debates over who should be the Blessed Mother. Yet, the pageant always goes beautifully, the Christmas story is told once again, and the wonder of the children moves everyone. This year Mary was about eight inches taller than Joseph but they got along well. Joseph was even willing to take Mary's hand on the way to Bethlehem - I am not always able to get our Joseph to do that.

I sometimes wish that every week here at St. Martin's could be like Christmas Eve, with the church full to overcrowding, the people delighted to be at Mass, and joyful in singing and praying as the Good News of Jesus is announced. We know that there are many Catholics who only come to Mass at Christmas and Easter and perhaps Ash Wednesday. We also know there are some in our families who won't come to Mass even on Christmas - they say they no longer believe. I suppose we could be tempted to resent those who come only on Christmas, since they take the best seats and the nearest parking spots. But I know we don't allow that feeling to take hold. Rather, we are happy that they have chosen to come to Mass, even if it is just for this one day to hear that the Son of God was born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. The star that guided the Magi to the stable still shines and brings people to the crib to look at the Baby in wonder and hope. All are welcome at St. Martin's.

The Feast of the Epiphany for me is about people yearning for God and searching for him. We come here to St. Martin's because we have found God present in his Word, in the Eucharist, in our faith in Jesus Christ. The Magi, the Wise men, the Kings, were men searching for God and the truth as they studied the stars and great books seeking wisdom. A bright star led them to the stable and Jesus. Every person is made by God and longs to be with God. Some seekers follow different paths to God, some get lost along the way, some never begin the journey, some get caught up in distractions and side trips and get off track. There are those who get a glimpse of God in their newborn child, in a loving relationship, at a time of loss, or in a moment of quiet when they least expect to hear Him. God never gives up on his people. He sends shining stars of every kind into everyone's life. Some are bright and lasting; others are shooting stars that last only for a moment. God keeps seeking to reveal himself to all people in a thousand different ways.



We are blessed to know Christ as our Lord and Redeemer through the gift of faith, but we can never allow ourselves to feel we are better than those who do not know him or who have stopped believing. Sometimes these very people are the ones who give us a fresh glance at the mystery of God. We are searchers, yearning for something that we cannot always understand. We pray that they see the stars God sends into their lives and follow a path that brings them into the mystery of the Divine. And, we pray that we never take for granted the many ways that God shows himself to us every day of our lives.

I invite you to look over these past weeks of Advent and Christmas and ponder and treasure as did the Blessed Mother after the birth of her Son Jesus: where have I seen the star shining over the newborn King? Where have I sensed the living God? The last verse of the Gospel about the Kings is: *They returned home by another way*. This verse is very telling: after one meets the living God, they are changed and go forward in life in new way.

Father Pat, CSSR woodscssr@aol.com
www.smtbethpage.org

Paving the Way for Christ Update on the Capital Campaign



WOW!! As of January 7, 2014, we have the sum of \$1,721,424.00 pledged to our capital campaign. When we conducted our feasibility study, I was told that we would probably raise 1.2 million - amazing generosity on the part of so many parishioners especially in financially challenging times.

We have already received \$500,073.69 in payments. Those who have made pledges will begin to receive your mailings and redemption books very soon, if you haven't already received them. I am confident that the pledge process will go smoothly. Soon we will publish another list of the donors in the bulletin. There have been many donors since the last list was published.

Any money pledged to the campaign can only be used for parish specific projects and is not taxed in any way by the diocese. I am also confident that our regular Sunday collections, which are critical for the day-to-day operations of the parish, will continue.

I will be meeting with our very fine building committee this coming week to move forward on the school building work, either starting with the bricks or the roof. I would like to begin this work in the spring as phase one of the campaign. God bless all our parishioners. Father Pat

**Annual March for Life 2014
Washington D.C.
Wednesday, January 22, 2014**

The Diocese of Rockville Centre is asking for all to come to Washington for the 41st. Anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Join us to be a witness to life! The birth of every child changes the world; let every child be born for a better world! Register today. Signs will be available. Buses will leave from many points in Nassau and Suffolk along with the Diocese of Rockville Centre to bring participants to Washington D.C.

To find a local bus or for more information call:

Respect Life Office, DRVC: 516 678 5800 ext. 626 or 381. www.drvc.org/respectlifeoffice
or Long Island Coalition for Life: 631-243-1435 between the hours of 9am and 7pm.

**Pray with the USCCB
Pray with the Bishops to End Abortion**

NINE DAYS OF PRAYER, PENANCE AND PILGRIMAGE...JANUARY 18 - 26, 2014

Catholics across the country are invited by the USCCB to participate in a 9-day period of prayer, penance and pilgrimage for the healing and conversion of our nation and people impacted by the culture of death. Pray with the Bishops to end abortion!

On January 22, 2014 our nation will remember the 41st anniversary of roe v. Wade. Since that tragic decision in 1973, **more than 55 million babies were lost to abortion** and lives of their parents have been shattered!

HOW TO JOIN: Join by text message: Receive a link to the new novena content on your cell phone each day. Text: 9 days to 99000

Join by email: email DRVC Respect Life Office at www.drvc.org/respectlife

Enter your name and email to receive your daily intercessions, reflections and suggested acts of reparation.

**VIRTUS TRAINING
Protecting All God's Children**

If you wish to volunteer in any capacity in a parish, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires that you first register for Virtus by logging on to www.virtus.com.

Look for "registration" at the left column and follow the instructions. If you do not have access to the internet, please pick up a packet at the rectory office. Complete it and bring it with you to the Virtus training session.

**Next Virtus at St. Martin of Tours
Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30PM in the Faculty Lounge at the School**



St. Martin's Life Teen program is for all high school aged teens (9th-12th grade). Life Teen gathers every Sunday for the 5:30pm Youth Mass and every Sunday night from 7-8:30pm in the Youth Center (room 107 of the school) for our Life Nights. Each week we gather to grow in faith and friendship with Christ & each other. Check out our parish website for a calendar of events at www.smtbethepage.org or contact Erin at EKHoran@yahoo.com.



The Edge program is for all middle school aged students (6th-8th grade). Edge meets every other Thursday evening from 7-8:30pm. This program is a wonderful way for young adolescents to grow in their faith as well as build lasting friendships.



Parent Life is designed to give parents an opportunity to support their parish ministry programs while strengthening their own relationship with Christ and His Church. Parent Life meets once a month on Sundays following the 5:30pm Mass in the school building. **All parents and adults are welcome!**

Padre Pio Holy Hour

Please join us on Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00PM in the Church for the Padre Pio Holy Hour. His first and second class relics will be venerated.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The next Adoration service is
Tuesday, January 14th
7:00PM in the Church



The Life Teen Youth Ministry has Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction every 2nd Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM in the Church.

The Catholic Counseling Center 12 Ryder Court, Dix Hills NY 11746

Professional therapy, provided by NYS licensed therapists, is available to our parish and 147 other parishes. This program, under the direction of George A. Giuliani, PhD, Director/Psychologist, is provided by the Catholic Counseling Center which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or the diocese.

Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments are available by calling Dr. Giuliani at 631-243-2503.

You may visit his website at
<http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 14: Youth Ministry Adoration 7PM
- Jan. 18: Book Club 10AM
- Jan. 20: Rectory Closed for MLK, Jr. Day
- Jan. 21: Padre Pio 7PM
- Jan. 21: VIRTUS Training 7:30PM
- Feb. 1: First Saturday 8:30AM
- Feb. 7: First Friday 7PM
- Feb. 8/9: Propagation of the Faith Appeal
- Legion of Mary: Every Tuesday at 10AM
- Holy Face Devotions:
1st Monday of the Month at 1PM

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat

We know that many women and men struggle with the emotional and spiritual pain associated with abortion. According to recent statistics, one in three people who come to church have been touched by an abortion.

The retreat will be held February 21-23, 2014 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington NY. You can register by mailing a check for \$150.00 with your name, address, phone and email address. Make checks payable to Life Center of Long Island and mail to:

Life Center of Long Island
35 E. Willow Street
Massapequa NY 11758

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Joe McNicholas at (516) 445-3927 or online at: rwr@lifecenterli.org. For additional information, you may also call Rachel's Vineyard toll free at 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit the website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

GLUTEN, PEANUT & DAIRY FREE HOSTS

St. Martin's always has a supply of hosts available for anyone who is allergy-sensitive to these types of foods. Please seek out the sacristan **before mass** so that the priest is prepared to include it for consecration. Please be sure to follow this procedure every time you attend mass.

**Dear Book Club Friends,**

Our book is "The Sea" by John Danville. The meeting will be Saturday, January 18th at 10AM at 208 Broadway (the Parish Outreach Center).

We look forward to lively conversation filled with insight, opinions, knowledge, personal experiences and laughter as a community of Catholics at St Martin of Tours. If there are any questions, please call Ann Mele at (516) 330-3039 or ann111647@netscape.net.

Till then...happy reading!

Father Patrick Woods and Ann Mele

FOR HELP
IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Hart Mirando
(C)830-5077 (H) 605-1979
ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24
HOURS, *RACHEL'S VINEYARD RE-*
TREAT (631) 243-2373.

Baby Safe Haven, Safe Babies, Safe
Place at 1 (877) 796-HOPE. Adop-
tion, Foster Care, Maternity Services,
Catholic Home Bureau 1(800) 592-
4357.

PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Please call the rectory at 931-0818 or email woodscssr@aol.com or gamit1946@hotmail.com to add your loved one to this prayer list. Our whole parish is united in prayer for safe return home of:



MAJ Brian McGrath, US Army
 CPT Gregory Holownia, US Army
 PO3 Matthew Sadecki, US Coast Guard
 CPL Zachary John Sheehy, USMC
 PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army, Afghanistan
 L CPL Dennis Diesel, USMC
 PVT James Kruper, USMC
 PFC Matthew P. Sirianni, US Army
 CPT Conor B. Murphy, USMC, Okinawa, Japan
 2LT Victoria Meyer, US Army Nurse Corp
 PO1 John Paul Pedalino II, US Navy
 CPT Thomas P. Shea, USAF, Afghanistan
 CPL Michael John Kelly, USMC
 1LT Brian McGrath, US Army
 PFC Matthew Castellano, US Army



An Enrichment Day for Married Couples



Spend a day free from pressures, commitments and worries. Take “time out” to focus on your marriage, build stronger communication and deepen your love. This day is for couples of all ages and years married.

DATE: *Saturday, February 01, 2014*

PLACE: *St. Raymond's Cafeteria*

PROGRAM BEGINS: *9:00 A.M. – Sign-in and Breakfast*

10:00 A.M. – First Presentation

PROGRAM ENDS: *4:00 PM - Renewal of Wedding Vows*

5:00 P.M. – Mass (Optional)

Please make check payable to “**St. Raymond Faith & Friendship Ministry**” and send to:

St. Raymond's Rectory
 ATTN: Faith & Friendship Ministry
 263 Atlantic Avenue
 East Rockaway, N.Y. 11518

Couple fee: \$40.00; includes breakfast, lunch and materials. Registration required.

*For information and reservations, contact:
 Charlie & Gerry Peknic at 516-596-6241*

**St. Martin of Tours Parish Welcomes Monsignor James M. McNamara
Our Episcopal Vicar this Weekend of January 11th and 12th.**

Part of the responsibility of the Episcopal Vicar is to make an official visit to the parishes which are in his Vicariate. Monsignor James McNamara will be making a visit to our parish this weekend. He will meet with the clergy, with the parish staff, with the pastoral and financial councils, along with the discipleship committee. Monsignor will speak at all our parish masses and celebrate the 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and the 10:00 on Sunday. Welcome Monsignor McNamara!



ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. – September 10, 2013 – The Most Rev. William Murphy, Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, has announced the appointment of Rev. Msgr. James M. McNamara 68, as Episcopal Vicar of the Central Vicariate of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Msgr. McNamara will continue to serve as pastor of the parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Point Lookout, NY.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre is comprised of three geographic regions called vicariates. There is the Western, Central and Eastern Vicariate. Within each vicariate there are smaller groupings of between 8-16 parishes called deaneries. The Central Vicariate is comprised of five deaneries consisting of 45 parishes around the geographic center of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

An Episcopal Vicar assists the Diocesan bishop by serving as his representative for the territory (such as the parishes of a particular geographic region) or specific activity (such as education, clergy, health care) for which he has been appointed.

2014 Membership Appeals for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

St. Martin of Tours will be welcoming Sister Rosemary Hayes, SHCJ who will be speaking at all Masses on behalf of the Propagation of the Faith during the weekend of February 8th and 9th. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

JOYFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



It is always dangerous to thank people since it is so easy to leave someone out who is well deserving of recognition. I will name a few individuals, but I will also list some larger groups who served our parish family so well during Advent and Christmas. Our music ministry, including all our choirs and musicians, under the director of music, Elena Scollo, provided very uplifting and prayerful music as they always do during these holy seasons.

I received many compliments on how beautiful the Church looks and accept them as if I placed every plant in place. Actually, I stay out of the way during the decorating since I have so much confidence in Ann Hughes and her decorating team. The decorations are so very tasteful. T.J. Hance and Al Cattabiani set up both the inside and outside stables. T.J. also made the lovely Emmanuel plaque that was near the pulpit. Our carpenter team, George Hoban and Bob Albertson prepared a very nice back. This Advent we added the Jesse Tree prepared by Pat Astarita.

I also want to thank Kate Mayerhofer who led our Gospel faith-sharing group on Saturdays. She, Ann Hughes and many others organized and assisted in our Wednesday evening Advent prayer services. Sue Marfici and her son Dominic are always hard working sacristans but Christmas demands even more time and effort. I thank the Knights of Columbus for allowing us to use their Hall for Christmas Mass. I am also grateful to the collection counters who I am happy to say have had extra work during the season. Pat Ricci coordinates the busy schedule for the Eucharistic ministers as does Jerry Della Rocca for the lectors.

Charlie Hydo showed us the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* and Ann Mele prepared the snacks for this event. Pat Astarita and her team prepared a great Christmas party for the kids. John Brolly was a jolly Santa and Marliese Coveney and Kathy Brolly made fine leaping elves. I am grateful to Pat Ryan and Laura Leigh Agnese for their great help on the Advent prayer services for the religious education program.

God has blessed our parish with many generous and dedicated men and women who volunteer their services in our ministries throughout the year. Our staff does great work all year long, but I do know Genny Mitchell and Barbara Amoroso take on more responsibility during the Advent Christmas Season. Rosemary Scarangella and her team provide service for the needy throughout the year, but Thanksgiving begins a very demanding time for them. Our youth group under the direction of Erin Horan-Baudille raised funds by selling Christmas trees, and were able to stop Father Ciya from walking off with a tree without paying for it.

I also want to thank all the parishioners who gave gifts to the priests, the deacons and staff during the Christmas season. Even though we may not be able to acknowledge every gift with a personal thank you card, we know they were given to us as a sign of love and appreciation. You humble us with your generosity. We also thank you for your beautiful Christmas cards and the kind words that accompanied them, as well as the many moments you took to wish us a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God is good and the people of St. Martin's truly reflect him to our staff, our clergy, and me. Thank you so very much. Father Pat

At the last Advent Gospel faith sharing before Christmas, Jack Raha shared this moving poem with the group. It is an invitation to see the uncanonized saints of our lives, both living and deceased. I hope it moves your heart as it did mine. - Father Pat

Cloud of Witnesses

Joseph Veneroso, M.M. Nov 2008 Maryknoll

**O, cast off the tired, rusty shackles of yesterday
That bind you to lonely shadows of the past.
If memory serves, then let it truly serve
But as a reminder that they who lived and died
For faith, for love, for God
Remain with us still and always will.**

**Today they walk among us unhaloed, uncanonized, unsung
And yet their lives, their prayers, their countless sacrifices
Surround us in our hour of need, uphold our cause,
Intercede on our behalf, keep us safe
And fill our emptiness with God's grace
As they draw down heaven's daily benediction.**

**Look! A second Francis of Assisi, there, waiting to catch a bus.
Another Joan of Arc, there, in the supermarket checkout line.
Ignatius, too, come again, now stuck in a traffic jam.
Therese, sitting on a park bench. Dominic, washing windows.**

**And what of you? How will you join this sacred company?
With quiet prayer or unassuming service?
A gentle touch or bold witness to the truth?
Do not just venerate the saints; be one!
Sanctify the simple things of life
And take part in tomorrow's litany.**



Worldwide Marriage Encounter



Married Couples!

*Are you looking for the perfect Valentine's Gift?
A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Just might be what you are looking for.*

The next weekend on Long Island is scheduled for

February 14-16 at the Montfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore, NY.

**Space is limited. For more information about the weekends or to apply, call 1-877-697-9963
or visit our web site at <http://www.wwme.org>.**



St. Edward the Confessor School

Early Childhood * Elementary * Middle School
"Teaching from Generation to Generation"

OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22, 2014 10-11:30AM

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2014 11-1PM

*If you would like more information about our school or want to schedule a
tour, please call the main office at (516) 921-7767 or visit our website at
www.stedwardconfessor.org*

**2 Teibrook Avenue, Syosset NY 11791-3830
Phone: 516 921-7767 * Fax: 516 496-0001**

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE**SO MANY TO THANK!**

THE LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PARISH OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS THAT YOU HAVE TOGETHER DONATED \$12,227.00 TO THE BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN IN 2013.

In the fall, both Jerry and I came before you once more to ask for help for our ministry at the Life Center of Long Island. We have come before you for eight years, and we are always overwhelmed at the response from all of you. As we stand before you each year, we look into your eyes and see the kindness, dedication and love for the future of our world...the children! During all eight masses, we get to see you all.....up close! We get to hear you comment on the sanctity of life; we get to understand that America is winning this battle for Life! It's there in your eyes...here in this church!

It's truly no wonder that St. Martin's was picked as PARISH OF THE YEAR in 2011. Each and every year, you reach out to these mothers and their babies, be it the Baby Bottle Campaign, or our Baby Shower in the spring.....you're always there!

As you may know, both Jerry and I are speakers for the Life Center. In doing so, we travel from the NYC line to way out into the Hamptons on the weekends. It is a gift that gives us hope for the future. Help for the present. We get to see the understanding, compassion and dedication our Church has for the Sanctity of Life.

Each church welcomes us and energizes us to carry on and never get discouraged that America is a country for Life. The majority of America **is** pro-life, and with this coming generation, they are understanding through technology, that life begins at conception, and that every life has value and is truly a gift.

We do not even know where to begin to thank you, each and every one of you! We will begin with our Father Pat for giving us the opportunity to come before you. We thank him for his deep devotion to Life at each stage. We thank him for his kind heart and warm welcome.

We thank Father Henry who is the Spiritual Director of our Respect Life Committee. His strength and direction has made us one, if not the largest Respect Life Committees in the diocese. We come together as one....working together for Life at every stage.

Father Ciya, Father Jim, our Deacons Jim, Gene and Tom, Sue, our Sacristan. I mention her because of the work she does along with her son Nick to gather up all the bottles each day. To the ushers that help carry the bottles from the Gathering Place.

Our Christian Mother's for always being there to hand you a bottle, and then again to take one from you when they are filled. TJ Hance, who piles up those crates that are filled with bottles that weigh a ton...always with a smile as he loads them into that van that carries them to the Life Center. Genny Mitchell - the work she does to set up all these notices for us...and always with a happy face. All those parishioners that knit and crochet baby blankets, hats and mittens for our newborns.

And to our Respect Life Committee that meets each month to gather information and "get the word out" about this gift of life. Each of them pitches in with the baby bottles, the baby showers and any way they can! We are not only members of a committee here at St. Martin's, we are friends! If you would like to join us, our meetings will be posted each month in the bulletin.

Over 800 bottles were filled with your change, dollars and checks. \$12,227.00....for the future of our world...our babies!

May God bless each and every one of you. May the kindness you find in your hearts spread across this world so that every life is allowed to be born and give the gift God has placed in each of his creations!

With our hearts,
Diana and Jerry Mirando

